



NEWS

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Eric Schmidt Named New Executive Director of Illinois Conservation Foundation

SPRINGFIELD, IL – The Illinois Conservation Foundation (ICF) today announced the appointment of Eric Schmidt of Westchester, Illinois as the new executive director of the Foundation, effective June 1. Schmidt will be responsible for day to day operation of the ICF, and will focus on fundraising and strategic planning for the future of the organization.

“I believe Eric Schmidt will be an outstanding addition to the Foundation, and I look forward to working with him and the ICF Board on an ambitious plan for the future of the Foundation,” said ICF Board Chairman Marc Miller. “Eric has a terrific track record in fundraising, especially as regards children and youth programs and education. I believe that makes him an ideal fit for the ICF as we move forward with building support for natural resources protection, outdoor recreation, and advocating for youth conservation education.”

Eric Schmidt is a graduate of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with extensive experience in not-for-profit fundraising and program management. Focused on education, conservation, and children's welfare, Schmidt has spent more than 15 years raising money for organizations such as the Boys and Girls Clubs of Chicago, Advocate Children's Hospital, and the Brookfield Zoo. Schmidt led all fundraising activities surrounding the 2012 Ryder Cup, held in Medinah, Illinois, raising funds and awareness for Ronald McDonald House Charities and the Illinois PGA Foundation.

The Illinois Conservation Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization established in 1994. The ICF has raised more than \$30 million in support of natural resource conservation and education. The Foundation's mission, working in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and other partners, is to preserve and enhance the natural resources of Illinois

by supporting and fostering ecological, educational, and recreational programs for the benefit of all Illinois citizens.

ICF youth-oriented programs are based at the Torstenson Youth Conservation Education Center, a 750-acre facility located east of Pecatonica in Winnebago County, along the Pecatonica River, a venue for outdoor, conservation, and environmental education programs, field trips, workshops, and meetings.

For more information on the Illinois Conservation Foundation, check the ICF website at www.ilcf.org or phone 217-785-2003.



Eric Schmidt